(d) whether these hospitals impose exhorbitant charges which are beyond the capacity of common people;

(e) steps proposed to check this; and

(f) whether Government will put any condition that these hospitals earmark a certain percentage of cases at affordable rates for treatment for common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, it is generally the State Governments who provide concessions subsidy and financial assistance to private enterpreneurs for setting up of corporate hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres in the States according to their rules/regulations and policy.

(c) to (f) The State Governments are resoonsible for regulating the private sector medical establishments for which some States have laws including land use law. The need to regulate the expansion of the Private sector medical establishmente including their standards, fees etc. has been emplasised at various fora. At present, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 provides and avenue for redress in case the private medical establishments give unsatisfactory service.

Non-operating of Indian Airlines flights from Akola and Kolhapur airports

438. MISS SARAOJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines have not included Akola and Kolhapur airports for operating its flights therefrom though these airports are fully operational;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Government is not coming forward to provide facilities to Indian Airlines at these airports; and

(d) if not, by when Indian Airlines is likely to operate its flights to these airports in the State?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) Indian Airlines, at present, is not in a position to operate air services to Akola and Kolhapur due to shortage of suitable aircraft and operating crew. Private Operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including akola and Kolhapur.

Pay Scale extended to RRB Staff

439. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government extended the pay scale of the equated status of the Sponsoring Banks to the Regional Rural Bank staff as per Tribunal Award;

(b) what are the equated status of public sector bank to each category of Regional Rural Bank staff granted by Government;

(c) whether the Regional Rural Bank staff are getting the pay scale of their status as equated by Government in the Sponsoring Banks; and

(d) if not, with which pay scale now they are equated to?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The pay and allowances of the employees of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are to be determined by Government under Section 17(1) of the Reginoal Rural Banks Act, 1976.

Pursuant to the award of the National Industrial Tribunal (NIT), Government issued an order on 22.2.1991 determining the salary and allowances of the employees of the RRBs and made them effective from 1.9.1987.

After the implementation of the Sixth Bipartite Settlement for the Commercial Banks, the employees of the RRBs had taken a stand that the settlement should be extended to them also. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court by some employees. Government had taken a